



Local Support Suggestions for Agricultural Education programs

Given that many agricultural education programs have lab facilities with living organisms (both animals and plants) the following suggestions should help provide support for operating and maintaining the well-being of those organisms.

Animal Science Lab Facilities

The agricultural education instructor or designee should have access to the animal science facility at all times IF there are live animals present.

- Given the time of year, Ag programs are in the middle of lambing and kidding season for sheep and goats as well as farrowing for hogs. Animals may go in to labor at any hours of the day. We recommend installing some type of camera in the facility that can be monitored remotely if possible.
- Most of the livestock in the facility are on a strict nutritional diet, being fed twice a day. This schedule should be maintained for optimum performance and growth of that animal.

A plan should be developed to allow access by essential students or designee if needed.

- Many students house their livestock project at the school facility because they do not have resources to keep an animal at their home. There are not options for this animal to be relocated with the student.
- Many school farms have a large number of animals that the agricultural education instructor may need assistance taking care of, or assisting with lambing, kidding, or farrowing.
- A limit should be placed on the number of students accessing the lab facility at one time. Our recommendation would be no more than five people in the lab facility at a time (including the advisor).
- A schedule that includes time limits for students based on necessity must be developed to with the agricultural education teacher
- Biosecurity must be in place for the lab facility that includes at minimum hand sanitation upon arrival and exit, along with biosecurity measures for shoes upon arrival and exit.

Plant Science Lab Facilities (Greenhouses)

The agricultural education instructor should have access to the greenhouse facility at all times IF there are live plants present.

- Given the time of year, Ag programs are in the middle of spring plant sale season and peak production for most greenhouse facilities in the state. While all



greenhouse facilities are climate controlled electronically, there are always issues that can arise that demand someone to be present to address. We recommend advisors utilizing the electronic monitoring and controls available through smart technology at this time to operate the basic functions of the greenhouse.

A plan should be developed to allow access by essential students or designee if needed.

- Given the time of year, there is a considerable amount of labor required to transplant plants that have already been started, potting plants for continued optimal growth, and maintaining optimal nutritional needs for the plants. Much of this labor requirement has a very short window of time to complete for optimum plant growth.
- A limit should be placed on the number of students accessing the greenhouse at one time. Our recommendation would be no more than five people in the greenhouse facility at a time (including the advisor).
- Biosecurity must be in place for the lab facility that includes at minimum hand sanitation upon arrival and exit, along with biosecurity measures for shoes upon arrival and exit.

A plan should be developed for transitioning in-person spring plant sales to an alternative method of online ordering and pick-up.

Specialty Lab Facilities (Examples, Meats Processing, Beekeeping, Food/Product Processing, etc.)

The agricultural education instructor should have access to the specialty lab facility at all times IF there are unfinished carcasses present.

- Given the abrupt nature of the situation, there may be unfinished products that need to be processed at the time of the school closures and quarantine. These products must be processed to avoid loss of product.

A plan should be developed to allow access by essential students or designee if needed.

- IF there are products that need to be finished processing, the agricultural education advisor may require additional labor for a short period of time from students.
- A limit should be placed on the number of students accessing the specialty lab facility at one time. Our recommendation would be no more than five people in the facility at a time (including the advisor).



- Biosecurity must be in place for the lab facility that includes at a minimum hand sanitation upon arrival and exit, along with other required sanitation standards for the facility.